

Human nature is such that times of distress, grief, and war—or their recent memory—impel us to acknowledgements we are often too proud to make, or too prone to forget, in periods of peace and prosperity. During the Civil War Lincoln said that he was driven to his knees in prayer because he was convinced that he had nowhere else to go. During World War II, an unknown soldier in a trench in Tunisia left behind a scrap of paper with the verses:

Stay with me, God. The night is dark,
The night is cold: my little spark
Of courage dies. The night is long;
Be with me, God, and make me strong.

America has lived through many a cold, dark night, when the cupped hands of prayer were our only shield against the extinction of courage. Though that flame has flickered from time to time, it burns brightest when we are willing, as we ought to be now, to turn our faces and our hearts to God not only at moments of personal danger and civil strife, but in the full flower of the liberty, peace, and abundance that He has showered upon us.

Indeed, the true meaning of our entire history as a Nation can scarcely be glimpsed without some notion of the importance of prayer, our Declaration of Dependence on God's favor on this unfinished enterprise we call America. Our land today is more diverse than ever, our citizens come from nearly every nation on Earth, and the variety of religious traditions that have found welcome here has never been greater. On our National Day of Prayer, then, we join together as people of many faiths to petition God to show us His mercy and His love, to heal our weariness and uphold our hope, that we might live ever mindful of His justice and thankful for His blessing.

By joint resolution of the Congress approved April 17, 1952, the recognition of a particular day set aside each year as a National Day of Prayer has become a cherished national tradition.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 7, 1987, as a National Day of Prayer. I call upon the citizens of this great Nation to gather together on that day in homes and places of worship to pray, each after his or her own manner, for unity of the hearts of all mankind.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eleventh.

RONALD REAGAN

Editorial note: For the President's remarks of December 22, 1986, on signing Proclamation 5594, see the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* (vol. 22, p. 1665).

Proclamation 5595 of December 30, 1986

Imposition of Temporary Surcharge on Imports of Certain Softwood Lumber Products From Canada

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. I have determined today, pursuant to Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (hereinafter "the Act") (19 U.S.C. 2411), that the inability of the Government of Canada to collect an export charge on exports of certain softwood lumber products to the United States of America until at least January 8, 1987, is unjustifiable or unreasonable and constitutes a burden or restriction of U.S. commerce.

2. Section 301(a) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2411(a)) authorizes the President to take all appropriate and feasible action to obtain the elimination of an act, policy, or practice of a foreign government or instrumentality that 1) is inconsistent with the provisions of, or otherwise denies benefits to the United States under, any trade agreement; or 2) is unjustifiable, unreasonable or discriminatory and burdens or restricts United States commerce. Section 301(b) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2411(b)) also authorizes the President to suspend, withdraw, or prevent the application of benefits of trade agreement concessions with respect to, and to impose duties or other import restrictions on the products of, such foreign government or instrumentality. Pursuant to Section 301(a) of the Act, any such actions can be taken on a discriminatory basis solely against the foreign government or instrumentality involved. Section 301(d)(1) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2411(d)(1)) authorizes the President to take action on his own motion.

3. In response to the inability of the Government of Canada to collect an export charge on exports of certain softwood lumber products to the United States of America until at least January 8, 1987, I have decided that expeditious action is required, and, pursuant to Section 301 (a), (b), and (d)(1) of the Act, to increase temporarily the rates of duty on imports from Canada of the softwood lumber products provided for in Appendix A to this Proclamation. I am authorizing the Secretary of Commerce to determine when the Government of Canada begins to collect the export charge and, when he has made that determination, to take all necessary and appropriate steps to end the temporary surcharge I have today proclaimed.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, acting under authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, including but not limited to Section 301 (a), (b), and (d)(1) and Section 604 of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2411 (a), (b), (d)(1); (2483), do proclaim that:

1. Subpart B of part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States is modified, with respect to products of Canada imported into the United States by adding an additional duty of 15 percent *ad valorem* to those products listed in Appendix A to this Proclamation. These changes shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after December 31, 1986.